tion technology in the leather industry, the Government has permitted import of machinery and chemicals in the leather and leather product sector with concessional rates of duty.

Besides, the Government with UNDP assistance has drawn up an integrated National Leather Development Programme to enable the leather industry in the country to face the challenges in the national and international markets. There are different components of the National Leather Development Programme such as human resources development, design and product development, development of supporting industries, effluent treatment and control and strengthening export capability.

A number of programmes with the assistance of various international agencies have also been undertaken to improve the production technology and marketing etc. in the leather sector. The Government has also permitted duty free import of raw hides and skins, chrome tanned leather, crust leather, finished leather, to augment availability of leather.

In order to ensure quality of Indian leather and leather goods, the Burea of Indian Standards is coordinating the activities of the ISO TC-120 Leather EN Standards EEC regulation/harmonisation of Indian standards of footwear and other leather items with ISO standards.

(c) to (e) While some seizures of leather hides & skins have been made by our agencies at our borders, there are no official reports of large-scale smuggling of leather hides & skins across neighbouring countries. However, with a view to check smuggling on these borders, our agencies have strengthened the vigilance and intelligence set up on our borders.

Exclusive Bank to met the Requirements of EOUs/EPZs.

2660. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to set up an exclusive bank to meet the fund requirements of EOUs/EPZs since the EOUs/EPZs are finding it extremely difficult to obtain funds through normal banking channels;

(b) if so, the details of proposals received by Government in this regard;

(c) the actual status of these proposals and final decision, if any, taken in the matter; and

(d) the details of other measures recently taken/proposed for the success of EOUs/EPZs?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to set up an exclusive Bank to meet the fund requirements of EOU/EPZ units.

(d) Some measures recently taken to improve the competitiveness of EOU/EPZ units include the facility to convert export earnings at market rate of exchange, and simplification of Export—Import Policy and Procedures.

Anti-Dumping Duty

2661. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to levy anti-dumping duty on several items; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and the names of the items likely to be effected?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The Indian Customs, Tariff Act, 1975 empowers the Government to impose anti-dumping duties in those cases in